From CHRIS LONGERICH

The wound in Governor Connally's back/chest — horizontally or vertically elongated?

In his dissenting report (7 HSCA 199–209) to the HSCA F.P.P. Report Dr. Cyril Wecht wrote of the configuration of the gunshot wound on JBC's back:- "There is strong evidence to indicate that the elongation of the wound on JBC's back was in the horizontal plane, and not the vertical plane, which would be consistent with the shot having struck JBC on a tangential angle from the right rear." (P.199-200).

Dr. Wecht understates the case, the evidence that the elongation of the wound was horizontal, not vertical, is compelling, if not conclusive.

Although Dr. Shaw in his operative notes wrote "The wound of entrance was approximately three cms. in its longest diameter" he testified before the Warren Commission "that there was a small wound of entrance, roughly elliptical in shape, and approximately a centimetre and a half in its longest diameter."

In his interview with the HSCA on Nov. 9. 1977 Dr. Shaw specifically stated that "The rear entrance was not 3cm. as indicated in the operative notes..... The wound was actually approximately 1½cm. The ragged edges of the wound were surgically cut away, effectively enlarging it to approximately 3cm."

Confirmation of this is found in the report by Dr. Baden (of the F.P.P.) of his examination of Gov. Connally on 6th September 1978 "...it was readily apparent that at the site of gunshot perforation of the upper right back there is now a 1⅛ inch (1⅛" = 2.86cms) long horizontal pale well healed scar that is up to ⅜ inch wide (⅜" = 0.95cms) centrally, with a lateral border slightly lower than the medial border (5 degrees).

Dr. Gregory, (the wrist surgeon) testified before the Warren Commission that "I did see in the course of the operation the wound in his chest, the wound of entry, and its posterior surface,.... It appeared to me that the wound of entry was a sort of linear wound, perhaps three-quarters of an inch in length with a rounded central portion." This confirms both the ovoid nature of the wound and the dimensions of approximately 1.5cms length (¾" = 1.9cms).

It is of note that the scar on JBC's is only 5 degrees off the horizontal.

What of the holes in the clothing? JBC's coat and shirt were laundered prior to examination, but in testifying before the Warren Commission Robert

Frazier stated "There was found in the coat by me when I first examined it, near the right sleeve 1⅛ inches from where the sleeve attaches to the coat, .. a hole which is elongated in a horizontal direction to the length of approximately five-eighths of an inch (=1.6 cms), and which had an approximate one-quarter inch height (= 0.6 cms)."

The FPPR states of this hole in the coat "There is an irregularly shaped oval defect perforating all layers of the jacket on the right back, ... measuring 1.7 by 1.2 centimeters." The direction of the elongation is notable by its absence!

Of the shirt Frazier testified that examination of the shirt revealed the rear hole was "L-shaped." Though there was a horizontal tear five-eighths of an inch (1.6 cms) long it was half an inch vertically (1.3 cms) and had an additional small tear (i.e. the laundering process had probably torn the hole slightly).

The FPPR says of the shirt hole, "A defect in the back measuring up to 0.8 centimeter in vertical diameter and 1.3 centimeters in transverse (horizontal) diameter is in a position corresponding to the defect in the jacket.."

Although Dr. Shaw noted in his HSCA committee interview that the entrance wound was longer along the vertical axis all the physical evidence — Governor Connally's scar, the hole in the shirt and the hole in the coat — show it to have been longer horizontally than vertically.

Thus the physical evidence indicates the dimensions of the wound in JBC's skin and the holes in shirt and coat were approximately 1.5-1.6 cms × 0.6-0.8 cms and that the elongation was basically horizontal with a slight declination, from medial to lateral.